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North Haven
Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



North Haven, Connecticut
An Open & Affirming Congregation

**NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Sunday, February 22, 2026

9:30 a.m.

1st Sunday in Lent

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: Prelude in A Minor by Jaak Nikolaas Lemmens

***OPENING HYMN:** “Today We Are All Called to be Disciples” V507

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Listen! There is hope to be found here.

People: Listen! God calls us by name here.

Leader: Listen! There is love that abides here.

People: This world is full of chatter, so may we do our best to listen.

Leader: God is speaking. Let us worship. **

***LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE ~unison**

During this time of Lent, O God, You call us to loose the bonds of injustice, To let the oppressed go free, to break every yoke. Lead us in this work of Peace, For the time is now... And we are here, O God!##
Amen.## Amen.

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

P513

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon:~unison

Holy God, Too often we treat your Word like a radio station—something we can tune in and out of when it’s convenient. Our minds are full of ads, emails, news updates, and notifications. In the midst of this clutter, we tend to gravitate toward the voices that think like us—easily ignoring the voices being silenced, easily ignoring your voice. Forgive us for failing to listen. Forgive us for getting caught in distractions. Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like. Drain the distractions from our minds and help us turn once again toward you. With earnest hearts we pray, Amen.

Silence is kept.

Friends, even when we tune God out, even when we prioritize other voices, even when we do all the talking and fail to listen, we are still held by God. Our sins are forgiven. Nothing could ever separate us from God's love. So with joy in our hearts, please repeat after me:

I am loved! I am loved!

I am held in grace! I am held in grace!

I belong to God. I belong to God. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*)

Choral Amen

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

see insert

BAPTISMAL BENEDICTION

V454

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalm 32 Psalter

Refrain:

Holy One, show us the way we must go.

Happy are the pardoned;
Their sins forgiven.

**Happy those whom God reckons guiltless,
who have not spirit of deceit. R**

Though I did not speak, my bones withered; I groaned all day long,
with your hand weighing me down, day in and day out.

**My very body dried up,
as if in summer's heat.**

My sins I declare to you;
I do not hide my guilt.

**I said, 'I confess my wrongs to you, Holy One.'
You banished my sinful guilt!**

That is why all the faithful pray to you in time of stress.
Great floods shall not harm them.

**Secretly you save me from harm and danger,
surround me with shouts of rescue. R**

Hymn: "Change My Heart, O God"

Insert

THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 4:1-11 Page 1157

The Testing of Jesus

4 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written,
‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

HERE ENDS THE READING. THANKS BE TO GOD.

THE GIFT OF MUSIC: “Lead Me, Lord” Samuel Sebastian Wesley
Sung by the Chancel Choir

SERMON: “The Voices In Our Heads” Rev. Cindy

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:** **V 728**

“Lead me, God, lead me in your righteousness;
make your way plain before my face.”

PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Choral Response

THE OFFERTORY

*Doxology

Old 100th

"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One." (United Church of Christ version).

*Prayer of Dedication

In the hour of his temptation, when Jesus hungered, he knew from where his sustenance came: "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Lord, from the abundance of your grace, your word has provided all that we need. All that we have is yours. Receive the offering of our hands and the gratitude of our hearts. In the name of our Savior we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" Insert

***THE BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: Ecossaise in G

by Ludwig van Beethoven

*Those who are able, please stand.

** Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC |
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Deacon is Jim Bennett. **Scripture Reader** is Jim Bennett. **Greeter** is Beth Anderson. **Camera Operator** is Joan Bennett.

Flowers are given by Sue and John Tibor in loving memory of their son Dino, who began his new life in heaven 24 years ago. Dino is dearly loved and his memory continues to bless us.

Please join us for Fellowship in Carroll Hall immediately following the service.

In Our Prayers This Week are:

The Rev. Deb Ruotolo, Lee Guckert, Susan Guckert, Melanie Howlett, Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marlene Bellonio, Meg Adams, Ann Schneider, and Charlotte Shea.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, MARCH 15th!!!! 2:00 p.m.
ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER!!!!**

\$18.00 per person

Children 12 and under FREE!!

Tickets may be purchased after church in Carroll Hall,
Sunday Feb 22 – March 8th!!

Take Out Dinners available, payable in advance!!

Safety Mission Team

In order to make our church safer for members and visitors, beginning on April 12, we will be locking all doors on Sunday morning 15 minutes after the service has started. There will be a sign on the main front door instructing anyone who arrives after 9:45 to ring the doorbell at the elevator entrance to be let in. Thanks for your cooperation. We all want our church to be a safe place.

Cheryl Bogert, for the Safety Mission Team

Fundraising for our Church

Since the church budget that was passed two Sundays ago at our annual meeting included a considerable fundraising budget, the on-line auction fundraising team is exploring if we can hold another on-line auction this year. If so, it would be our 7th annual on-line fundraising auction for the church. Advance planning and donation commitments are needed.

To have another fundraising auction, we would need to have some "anchor" items, that is, items with an expected high value for the auction. The previous anchor items for our first six auctions included donations of gold jewelry, sterling silver items, canoe, kayak, paddle boards, Thule rack, silver fox coat, fly rods, electric lift chair, racoon coat, Karastan rugs, antique wagon, special Beatles albums. We would be interested in finding out if you or someone you know might be downsizing and interested in donating these types of items for our on-line fundraising auction. Other types of items that would be desirable are just about any teak items or small teak furniture (side table), anything unusual, for example an antique license plate or a vintage peewee drawstring talking doll. Mid-century modern items do well in this type of auction. If you have items to donate, please contact a member of the On-Line Auction Fundraising B Team: Martha B., Martin B, Patience B and Priscilla B.

***OPENING HYMN: "Today We Are All Called to be Disciples" V507**

1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing

Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 Word, and walk the road the saints have trod till

plough - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry,
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the

quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast, to
 sad - ly proud, we sow not peace but strife, our
 to re - store an earth where con - flicts cease, a
 earth may we give thanks in one ac - cord to

serve the poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
 dis - cord spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
 world that was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
 God who calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

May God who cre - ates you give you light;

may God who sus - tains you make you wise;

may God who pro - tects you give you joy,

may God who sur - rounds you give you peace.

MISSION

Our church's mission is to bind ourselves with Jesus Christ in:

- Worship together;
- Nurture of Christian discipleship; and
- Compassionate service to our community and beyond.

VISION

We are a hub for the larger community as a church of action:

- Conducting regular, robust worship in a responsible and relevant way in an ever changing and challenging world;
- Welcoming all people from different and diverse backgrounds to become a community of disciples together; and
- Involved in purposeful action and activities through the structure of self-directed Mission Teams.

VALUES

We:

- Pray together, encourage each other, and trust one another;
- Take personal responsibility for fellowship and our community; and
- Celebrate with honored traditions.

Hymn: "Change My Heart, O God"

Insert

Change my heart, O God, _ make it ev-er true. _

Change my heart, O God, _

may I be like you. _ You are the

Pot - ter, I am the clay. _

Mold me and make me, this is what I

pray. Change my heart, O God, _

make it ev-er true. _ Change my heart, O God, _

may I be like you. _

Psalm 5

Refrain 1

Susan Marrier 1994

Unison

As morn - ing dawns, God, hear my cry.

Music and words copyright © 1994 Susan Marrier

Refrain 2

Samuel Sebastian Wesley 1861, alt.

Lead me, God, lead me in your righ-teous-ness;

make your way plain be - fore my face.

Listen to my words, O God,
give heed to the sound of my groaning.

Hear my cry for help, my sovereign, my God,
for to you I direct my prayer.

In the morning, God, you hear my voice;
early in the morning I make my plea,
and look to you for an answer. R

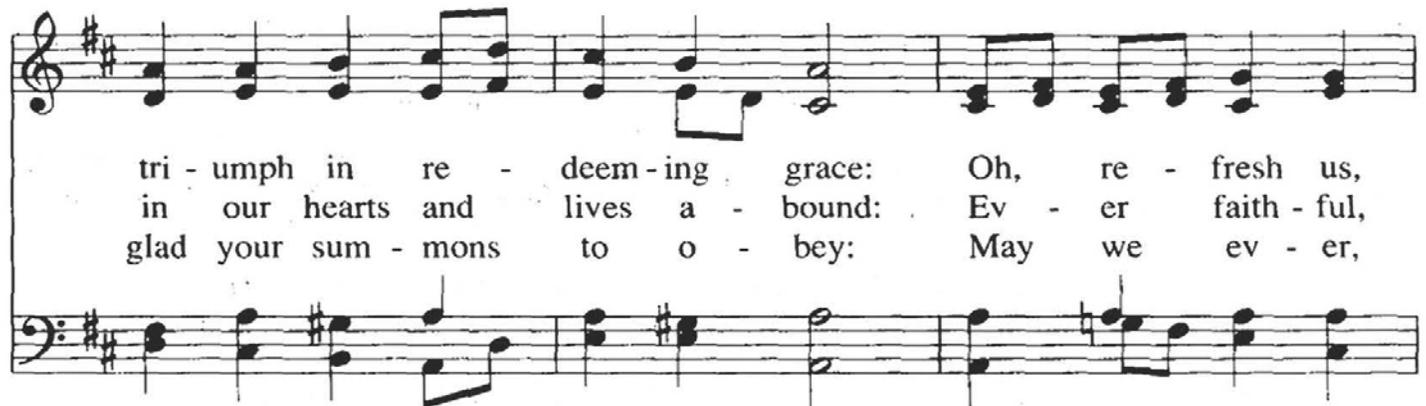
***CLOSING HYMN: "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" Insert**



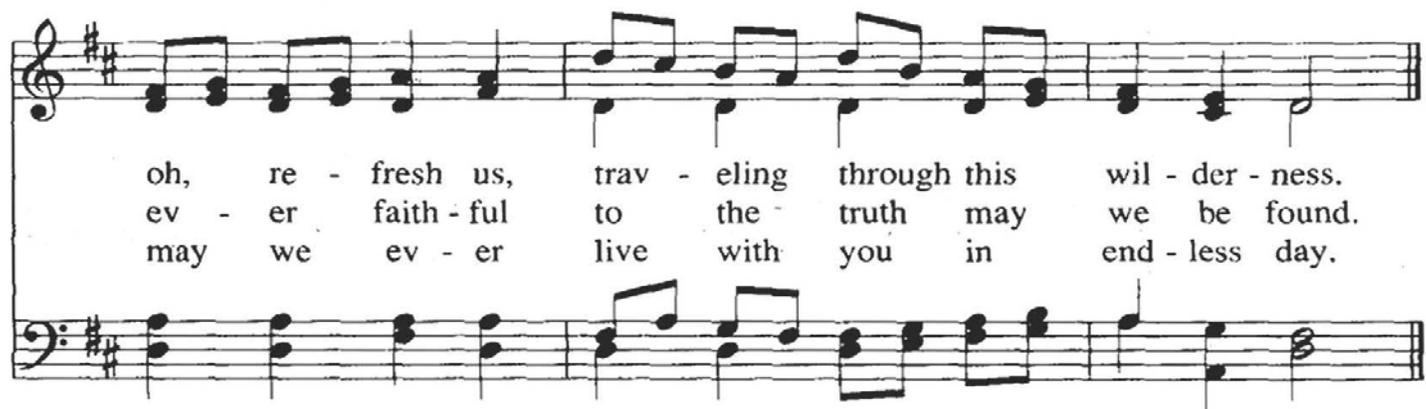
1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with
2 We give thanks and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's
3 So that when your love shall call us, Sav - ior, from the



joy and peace; Let us each your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound; May the fruits of your sal - va - tion
world a - way, Fear of death shall not ap - pall us,



tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: Oh, re - fresh us,
in our hearts and lives a - bound: Ev - er faith - ful,
glad your sum - mons to o - bey: May we ev - er,



oh, re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful to the truth may we be found.
may we ev - er live with you in end - less day.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

Sunday	2/22	9:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	WORSHIP: First Sunday in Lent Tibetan American (K,CR, RR)
Monday	2/23	9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 3:00 4:00	Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN INTERIM INTERVIEW TEAM (L) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Tuesday	2/24	9:30 a.m. 10:00 10:30 12:00 p.m. 3:30 4:30 6:00	Music Together (DBL) Al-Anon (K) Music Together (DBL) PLP (Library) United Girls' Choir (CH, K, Sanct) Music Together (DBL) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
Wednesday	2/25	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	WINDOW MAILING FOOD PANTRY OPEN Danish Sisterhood (K)
Thursday	2/26	7:00 p.m.	CHANCEL CHOIR
Friday	2/27	9:30 a.m. 10:00 10:30 5:00 p.m.	Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL) Family Reunion Cooking (Kitch)
Saturday	2/28	9:30 a.m. 11:30 12:00pm	Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL) Family Reunion (CH)
Sunday	3/1	9:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	WORSHIP: Second Sunday in Lent Tibetan American (K,CR, RR)

*Small print indicates non-Church function

Bold print starts new day.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Eben Stewart 02/23, Florence Klemenz 02/24, Rebecca Conley 02/24, Doris Vigliotto 02/27, Mark Butterworth 02/28.

Church Staff: All the Members, Ministers to the World
The Reverend Cindy Stasko, Bridge Pastor
Karlee Etter, Ministry Coordinator for Children
Jeffrey Hutchins, Director of Music
Heather Meachen, Organist
Julie Schweickert, Office Manager
Dave Nelson, Sexton